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Westerleigh Bulletin.

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L. KIPP, S. T. HERMAN.

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Jan. 1, 1907.

Westerleigh, Borough of Richmond, New York City.

What the Society Has Done.

The close of the year 1906 finds Westerleigh much more attractive as a place of residence than ever before. Practically all of the streets not heretofore paved or macadamized have been macadamized during the year. The city has also responded to the appeal of the Improvement Society and installed concrete curbing, with wide brick gutters laid on concrete on all streets which have been macadamized. As a result of the improvements in Westerleigh, this section is now considered by residents of Staten Island as the most promising section of the borough. Rents have advanced and will probably advance further as a result of the improvements made during the past few years, including the paving of the streets, new curbing, concrete sidewalks and new school building, costing approximately \$100,000, which improvements have all been brought about through the efforts of the Improvement Society.

When the concrete sidewalks were laid, the Improvement Society received approximately \$22,000 from property holders to enable the Society to make a blanket contract for all of this work. These moneys as received were deposited in bank at interest, which amounted to enough to enable the Improvement Society to put in enameled street signs, erected on iron posts set in concrete on the corners of all intersecting streets in Westerleigh. The signs on Jewett Avenue, the main thoroughfare, over which the trolley runs, read "Jewett Avenue, Westerleigh," as a result of which Westerleigh is being advertised to every transient passing through this locality. In no other section of Staten Island are to be found street signs except here and there stray ones.

The Westerleigh Improvement Society has appointed a committee to visit the public school once each week for the purpose of "keeping an eye open" as to sanitary conditions, etc. Any matters coming to the notice of the committee regarding the action of the Board of Education will be brought to their attention by the Society.

The best evidence of the fact that the Improvement Society has proven of value to property holders is the fact that similar organizations have recently been formed in other parts of the borough.

Personal To You.

The value of the Westerleigh Improvement Society has been abundantly proved. Are you a member? If you are a lot owner you ought to be, for no one who is interested in real estate in Westerleigh can afford to remain outside. Is it not an advantage to have your taxes looked after and attended to? Is it not an improvement to your lot to have the weeds kept down, the grass cut, giving the property a nice appearance? Is it not—if you are an absentee owner—well and advantageous to be kept in close touch with those who are likewise interested? Are not the advantages worth two dollars a year?

If you do not own property at Westerleigh but are interested as a resident or lot owner in its immediate vicinity, you still ought to be a member, for whatever improves an adjacent neighborhood adds to the value of your land.

The way to become a member is to sign the application blank, or a copy of it, and send it with two dollars to the treasurer, A. J. Doremus, Jr., West New Brighton, N. Y.

If you own more than one lot send an additional fifty cents for each additional lot if you wish the Society to look after your taxes and see that your lots are kept in good condition.

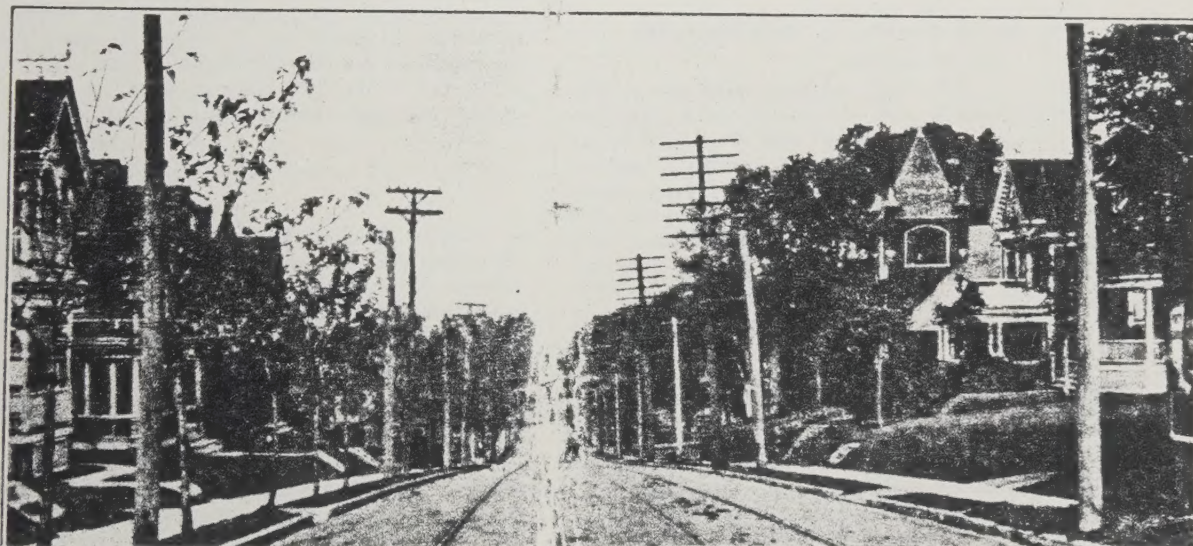
APPLICATION BLANK.

I hereby apply for membership in the Westerleigh Improvement Society and I authorize the Secretary to sign my name to the Constitution. I enclose Two Dollars for payment of first year's dues, and an addition sum of \$_____ in payment of fifty cents on each lot beyond the first.

NAME.....

P. O. ADDRESS.....

STATE.....



Jewett Avenue, Westerleigh, looking north, showing Immanuel Church and residences of A. M. Harris, C. I. Robinson, John DeMorgan, Mrs. Williams and J. H. Silvie.

The newly-elected Governor of New York, Charles E. Hughes, a Westerleigh lot owner.

There are 109 registered voters living at Westerleigh.

Lot owners should not allow their property to remain unproductive. Better sell than let it lie unimproved; still better build it be to build a nice house on each lot. There is a big demand for houses.

The Westerleigh Building Loan and Savings Association will loan money to build houses. The rent will pay the dues, and in a few years the property will be free and clear and be a source of income to the owner.

Our Municipal Ferry.

As foreshadowed in our last BULLETIN, the City of New York has obtained all rights over the ferry between Manhattan and our borough. Five palatial boats have been built and the municipality is running them practically all day and night at intervals of from fifteen to thirty minutes. Instead of the trip across the beautiful Bay of New York taking half an hour or more, the run is made in twenty minutes. The boats are admittedly the most beautiful and commodious ferryboats in the world, and the borough is to be congratulated on the municipal ferry. A magnificent terminal is in course of construction on Staten Island, and when the trolley service is improved, as the city promises it shall be, the desirability of Staten Island as a place of residence will be greatly enhanced.

A large share of the honor is due to Mr. Arthur M. Harris, the president of the Westerleigh Improvement Society, for it was through his untiring exertions that special legislation was obtained which made it possible for the city to own and operate the ferry.

Comptroller Metz has become a convert to the idea that the ferry is really the highway between the boroughs and therefore should be free, or nearly so, to all residents. The Commissioner of Docks and Ferries has frequently of late spoken in favor of free ferries.

The Comptroller does not contemplate absolute free rides, which would result in the boats filling up with loafers and other undesirable persons, who would ride back and forth all day.

The plan which he proposes, in which he is seconded heartily by Commissioner Benschel, is that just enough fare shall be charged for passengers to discourage loafing and continuous riding on the boats. The charge for ferrying teams, he says, also should be reduced to a minimum. Passenger fares should be reduced to about what they were in the old days of the Brooklyn Bridge, when persons who wished to cross it bought packages of twenty-five tickets for five cents, or one-fifth of a cent each.

With the carrying out of the Comptroller's excellent ideas, Staten Island would arise from its slumber and no longer be known as "The Sleeping Beauty."

National Prohibition Park Company.

The attention of the officers of the Park Company has been directed to improving the property and making Westerleigh an exceptionally attractive residential section. Thousands, yes, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent during the last few years in improving and beautifying the place.

As a result, Westerleigh has now more than one hundred and fifty modern and attractive residences, costing from \$2,000 to \$25,000 each.

The restrictions are such that no business house can be erected in Westerleigh. The property is highly restricted and exclusively residential. No house can be built costing less than \$1,500. No stables or out-buildings of any description, no fences, can be built; hence, the place is exceptionally attractive and inviting. There is a much larger demand at all times for houses than the supply. Unquestionably the place will be a thriving and growing one, being especially inviting to a desirable class of citizens.

Our Future.

Staten Island, the oft-quoted "pearl of New York harbor," is at last coming into its own. For a long term of years the development of this beautiful suburb has been very tardy; but, thanks to the improvement in ferry service incident to the installation of a handsome fleet of municipal boats, all this is changed. The ferry question being thus permanently and satisfactorily settled, wholesale real estate dealers, seeing their opportunity, bought up large tracts of acreage property for development; and they, in turn, are being followed by an army of home-seekers who bid fair to rapidly popularize the island.

A projected tunnel route under the Narrows, connecting with the Brooklyn and New York subway systems, has been approved by the Rapid Transit Commission, and will doubtless materialize in time. This would give a great impetus to real estate values, as it would afford another outlet to the congested portions of those two cities.

It is very easy to see that Staten Island as a whole is enjoying a happy reversal of its fortunes. In fact, it is booming. Westerleigh, our own little corner, always progressive, is improving with special rapidity. The miles of macadam streets and concrete walks have added greatly to the comfort and convenience of the restricted residence section.

Westerleigh is the best lighted residential district in the borough.

Then and Now.

Twenty years ago Westerleigh was virgin country. The wet lands near the spring were good wood-cock grounds, while hares and some quails were to be found on the adjoining up-lands. Jewett avenue—known as the Pond Road—was a country lane, and the hill from the present Boulevard to Egbert avenue was known as Iron Ore Hill. It was a favorite slide in the winter and young and old came for miles to zip from the top to the bottom. Persons calling themselves young can easily recall these facts. Trolleys now replace the rushing bob-sleds, and furnish more headlong and dangerous rides, summer and winter, but especially in summer.

Twenty years ago Westerleigh was a howling wilderness.

It is no longer a wilderness, but the howls are increasing. Westerleigh has 182 children under four years of age and two (2) complete sets of twins, while dogs and babies are respectively in the ratio of sixteen to one.

Westerleigh has two literary societies—one general and public, and one private and particular.

The average height of forehead in the respective societies is about the same.

Westerleigh has the best lower grade public school on Staten Island; fifty miles of concrete sidewalk; fifty miles of curbing and guttering; twenty miles of macadam and brick roadway; pure, clear water and the only genuine, simon-pure, unadulterated community-spirit existing on Staten Island to-day, and it all had its Genesis in somebody's well-grounded hatred of hard liquor.

Real Estate Activity.

The advent of Wood, Harmon & Co. into Richmond Borough is generally looked upon as an indication of great activity here within the next few years. This firm is one of the largest and most successful operators in the country, and they were closely identified with the successful development of South Brooklyn a few years ago. Within the past twelve months, they have picked up almost 2,000 acres of very desirable residential property in various parts of the borough, and the work of actual development has been going on since the 1st of June. Already several sections have been thrown open and great crowds of investors and home-seekers have been drawn from Manhattan through a very liberal offer that the firm is making in an effort to encourage the immediate construction of a desirable class of residences on all their properties.

On all of these properties, large forces of men have been engaged clearing the land, grading and macadamizing the streets, laying cement sidewalks and putting in other improvements. About twenty houses are also under construction and some of them will be ready for occupancy this spring.

The next section to be developed by this firm consists of a tract of about 2,000 lots situated at the intersection of Richmond Turnpike, Willow Brook Road and Watchogue Road. This is only a few hundred feet west of Westerleigh.

Westerleigh Building Loan and Savings Association.

It is not what he earns but what he saves that makes a man wealthy. How to save is then the question. The regular saving of a little is like the constant dropping of water; it accomplishes wonders. Some compulsion is necessary to make most people save regularly. The best way is to take either installment or prepaid stock in the Westerleigh Building Loan & Savings Association. Dividends are paid regularly. Withdrawals are paid promptly. Thirteen years in successful operation. A new series of shares is opened on the 1st of January and July of each year. The secretary is H. C. Horton, Wardwell avenue, Westerleigh, West New Brighton.

Shakesperian Interpretations.

During the present winter a class for the study of Shakespeare's plays has been held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur M. Harris. Thirty-eight members joined and listened with great interest to the interpretations of five plays by Miss Julia Ruggles, the well-known Shakesperian interpreter and critic, who was specially engaged to conduct the class. The plays selected were "As You Like It," "Twelfth Night," "The Winter's Tale," "Hamlet" and "The Tempest."

Pertinent Paragraphs.

Levi Hoag, candidate for State Comptroller on the National Prohibition ticket, is a lot owner and was for several years a resident, only leaving because his business required his residence at Binghamton.

The Rev. and Mrs. Parker J. Gates recently celebrated their golden wedding at their home in Westerleigh. Mr. Gates was a candidate for Congress on the National Prohibition ticket at the last election.



Arthur M. Harris

President of the Westerleigh Improvement Society, a member of the banking firm of N. W. Harris & Co. of New York, Boston and Chicago, and one of the most energetic citizens of the Borough of Richmond. Interested in every good work, indefatigable in his labors for the church, Sunday school and everything which tends to the betterment of mankind, it is impossible to overestimate the work accomplished for Westerleigh and the Borough of Richmond by Mr. Harris. The Editorial Committee has great pleasure in presenting his portrait to the readers of the BULLETIN.

WESTERLEIGH AS IT IS.

Real and Attractive Character of a Famous Residence Section.

(From The Staten Islander, Dec. 16, 1905.)

About seventeen years ago a company of enthusiastic believers in prohibition purchased a tract of land including the old Jewett estate in West New Brighton. It was their intention to establish a temperance Chataqua. Streets were laid out, a large auditorium erected and numerous cottages built. Among the early pioneers of this Chataqua were the Rev. William A. Boole, who became the first permanent resident; I. K. Funk, D.D., LL.D., president of the Funk & Wagnalls Co.; the Rev. Dr. Deems; W. I. Wardwell, of the Standard Oil Company; the Rev. J. T. Wright, of the Episcopal Church; Rev. Dr. Gregory and others whose names were prominent in temperance and religious work.

From the platform of the vast auditorium the greatest statesmen, preachers and orators uttered words of wisdom and eloquence, and each summer saw thousands of people flocking to this new Mecca. The first trolley line of Staten Island was built to carry the throngs from Port Richmond to what was then known as Prohibition Park.

The natural beauty of the site and the enterprise of the founders caused an influx of lot purchasers and a large number of pretty cottages sprang up.

The character of the place became so changed that instead of a prohibition camp ground the section became a choice residential district, and in the year 1894 the people voted to change the name to the euphonious one of Westerleigh.

MODERN WESTERLEIGH.

There are now over 1,000 lot owners in Westerleigh paying taxes on an assessment of \$750,000, or one-sixtieth of the entire real estate assessment of Richmond Borough.

The streets of Westerleigh, eleven miles in combined length, are nearly all paved with brick, macadam or asphalt, while over five miles of concrete sidewalk has recently been laid.

The Westerleigh Improvement Society, presided over by C. I. Robinson, looks after the vacant lots, keeps the grass cut and the weeds kept under control, and when the "beautiful snow" covers the sidewalks with several inches of fleecy beauty, the society sends its snow plow through so that the residents may reach business in comfort.

There is a building and loan society which has its headquarters in Westerleigh, and which has for several years paid an annual dividend of six per cent.

DISTINGUISHED RESIDENTS.

Westerleigh is unique in its residents, for it would be difficult to find a section where so many professional and literary men have found a home.

The financial world is well represented by Francis L. Sill, banker and broker; A. M. Harris, of the firm of N. W. Harris & Co., of New York, Boston and Chicago, and J. H. Sylvie, of the Shoe and Leather Bank.

The law has its representatives, for the handsome colonial house owned by the brilliant young ex-district attorney, Edward S. Rawson, stands out prominently on Jewett avenue, while Lot C. Alston, Frank I. Smith and Herman S. Butler own and occupy charming cottages.

Westerleigh is rich in its literary residents, for among those who make it their home are Edwin Markham, whose poem, "The Man With the Hoe," has been translated into nearly every language; Florence Morse Kingsley, who ranks among the foremost of our writers of pure fiction; her talented husband, the Rev. Charles Rawson Kingsley who, besides being the pastor of Immanuel Union Church is an author of renown; Edward J. Wheeler, editor of *Current Literature*; H. C. Horton, H. W. Doremus, W. A. Jones, W. Shilladay, John De Morgan, W. Jones and many others.

PLEASANT RESTRICTIONS.

In this choice section, free from all nuisances, where no saloon can offend the eyes and ears, no factory can be built, many who make education their life work love to dwell, so we find Prof. Strong, of the Westerleigh Collegiate Institute; Principal Eugene Putnam; School Teachers Dorman, Denton, Toepp, Jump, Weisman, Hopkins, of Curtis High School; Misses Helen Daley, Phelps and Burden, and several others occupying tasteful dwellings.

The scientific professions are well represented by Clarence L. Robinson, special chemist of the Standard Oil Co.; Prof. Jones; and Charles E. Trout, civil engineer of the dock department, while many engaged in mercantile life seek the peaceful quiet of Westerleigh after the strenuousness of the city, among whom might be mentioned I. C. Kirkham, of the Maxwell Auto Car Co.; H. A. Murphy; "Gus" Ballin; G. J. Turnbull; C. H. Marsh; B. F. Funk; A. J. Barrett; J. F. Atterbury; J. E. Phillips, of the Richmond Light & R. R. Co.; J. M. Vanderbilt, S. I. Rapid Transit R. R. Co.; B. Cutler; S. H. Walker and a host of others.

SOLID, BUT JOLLY.

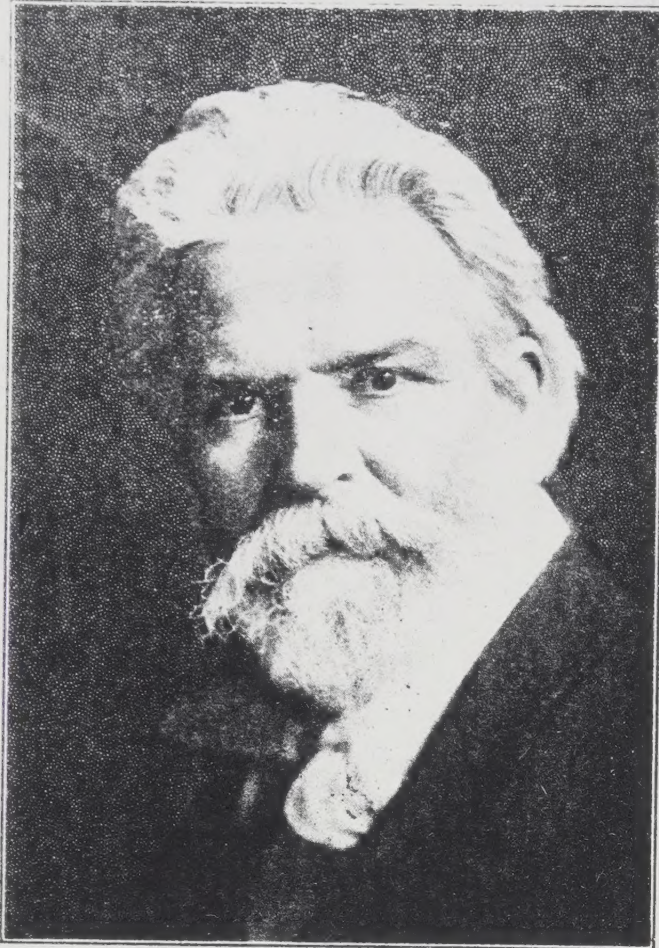
Let it not be supposed that the people of Westerleigh are dull, for such is not the case; there is not a more lively section in the whole borough. Many of its residents are active in the Manor Field Club, and during the winter months parties and receptions, literary re-unions, dancing classes, bowling clubs and social gatherings make the long evenings a continual pleasure.

Westerleigh believes in enjoyment, and the residents are among the happiest and jolliest, the most sociable, sincere and patriotic citizens of the borough.

The Deems Literary Society.

The Deems Literary Society, founded ten years ago by the C. E. Union, has become the foremost society of its kind in the borough. With an average attendance of over one hundred at each of its meetings, the interest has never flagged. Lectures and essays have been given by many distinguished members and guests, among whom may be mentioned Edwin Markham, Mrs. Markham, Arthur M. Harris, Mrs. Florence Morse Kingsley, Howard R. Bayne, Arthur A. Michell, the Rev. Dr. Berg, Edward J. Wheeler, Mrs. E. E. Morse and Sidney F. Rawson. During the coming year the members will be addressed by W. Allaire Shortt, Edward C. Delavan, W. P. Ferguson, T. A. Fulton, Edward S. Rawson and others.

The music at each meeting has been of the very highest order, while the ladies have entertained the members at the close of the literary and musical exercises with generous hospitality.



Edwin Markham.

America has produced no sweeter singer than Edwin Markham, and Westerleigh is proud to call him its own, for he resides in our midst, and is interested in all that makes our district distinctive.

Edwin Markham is not only a poet dreaming of a golden age, and wafting sweet inspiration into the souls of men, but he is a deep thinker, and his articles now appearing on child labor are destined to do an immense amount of good.

His poem, "The Man With the Hoe," has been translated into nearly every language and his other poems are classics, stamping him as one of the greatest of modern poets.

Mr. Markham has very kindly written the following pleasing poem especially for the WESTERLEIGH BULLETIN:

Joy of the Morning.

I hear you, little bird,
Shouting aswing above the broken wall.
Shout louder yet; no song can tell it all.
Sing to my soul in the deep still wood;
'Tis wonderful beyond the wildest word.
I'd tell it, too, if I could.

Oft when the white still dawn
Lifted the skies and pushed the hills apart,
I've felt it like a glory in my heart—
The world's mysterious stir;
But had no throat like yours, my bird,
Nor such a listener!

—EDWIN MARKHAM.

Westerleigh Park, 1906.

Immanuel Church, In Westerleigh.

Westerleigh boasts a unique organization in the union church which has existed here for about fourteen years. It is rare that people of different denominational training can be induced to co-operate in such an institution. But if the advantages of Christian union were known as this suburb has come to know them, such action would soon be common. Visitors to Westerleigh are invariably impressed by the felicity of social and religious conditions. One lady after a protracted stay declared them to be quite ideal. The world has become so accustomed to church jealousies, rivalries, animosities, that it regards competition as natural and necessary in religion as in business. Yet competition is the bane of brotherhood; it is fatal to free fraternalism. If you live in Westerleigh, you soon forget whether your neighbor is a Methodist or a Baptist or a Presbyterian. You experience a new fellowship with all and every branch of the church of God.

The principle of church union discourages proselitizing. Immanuel Church welcomes all; it solicits none. As a union church it has sympathetic appreciation also for the many who claim a larger fellowship. It invites them to a share in its ministry of brotherly love—in the fellowship of doing good.

Immanuel Sunday School.

When prospective tenants and home-builders first visit a place, the two inevitable questions relate to the church and school privileges. Our beautifully equipped public school is a source of justifiable pride, and speaks for itself; but the Union Church and Sunday School has ever been a source of congratulation also. The latter, with Mr. Arthur M. Harris as superintendent, has recently made great strides in the way of progressive management, and certain unique features have added greatly to its efficiency. The entire school of 280 pupils is graded, and pupils pass upon examination from one class to another according to their ability. This affords a stimulus and variety to the students' work. An automatic attendance register, the invention of the assistant superintendent, Mr. H. W. Doremus, greatly simplifies the clerical work of the school, and is a positively unique feature of Immanuel School. The music under the direction of Mr. J. B. Dorman, with Mr. J. H. Silvie as pianist, is augmented by an orchestra of eight pieces, including, violins, cornets, flute and trombone.

Much of the success of the school is due to the zeal and personal interest and untiring efforts of the superintendent, who is second to none on Staten Island. He has the hearty support and co-operation of the officers and of what may be termed this "model school."

W. C. T. U.

Twelve years ago, when Prohibition Park was in its infancy, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union was organized. During these twelve years regular meetings have been held every two weeks, except through the months of July and August. These meetings are held at the various homes and have proven to be one of the profitable and social features of Westerleigh. The subjects for discussion are along all lines which tend toward the betterment of mankind. Under the direction of the W. C. T. U. a Loyal Temperance Legion was organized, which at present is in a most flourishing condition. With seventy or more members of various ages, it was necessary to form two classes, seniors and juniors; all under thirteen forming the junior class.

Christian Endeavor Society.

Deems Memorial Christian Endeavor Society was organized in 1889 under the name of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor of Prohibition Park, and was the first religious organization in the place.

The Society has always been an active force in the religious life of Westerleigh, and has made its influence felt in many directions and in widely varying localities; those who have been identified with it now being found in many parts of the United States, as well as in other countries of the world.

The Society built and owns Deems Memorial Chapel, and the cost of the original building has been fully paid.

The Christian Endeavor Society now numbers about 35 active members, and also has an associate and an honorary list.

The officers are: President, F. C. Waddell; vice-president, C. F. Miner; secretary, Miss Blanche Cutler; treasurer, A. T. Doremus; superintendent Junior Society, Miss Blanche Cutler.